

## Message Text

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 EB-07 STR-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /064 W

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O R 072204Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4720

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ CREDITS USG WITH TRYING TO OVER-COME DISCRIMINATORY AFFECTS OF TRA

REF: A) STATE 48538 B) QUITO 1556

1. IN A SIGNIFICANT INTERVIEW IN ALGIERS, COVERED BY ALL MAJOR ECUADOREAN DAILIES ON MARCH 7TH, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ CREDITED THE USG WITH MAKING EFFORTS TO REDRESS THOSE PORTIONS OF THE TRA WHICH PARTICULARLY HIT AT ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA. BOTH EL TELEGRAFO AND EL UNIVERSO (THE LATTER, THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST DAILY) PRINTED THE FOLLOWING EXERPT, WHICH WAS ALSO DISTRIBUTED BY SENDIP (THE OFFICIAL GOE NEWS BUREAU):

2. RODRIGUEZ WAS ASKED "IN THE VIEW OF THE DISCRIMINATORY MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE RICH COUNTRIES AGAINST THE THIRD WORLD, AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE INCLUDED IN THE US TRA, CAN YOU GIVE US, MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ACT AND THE AFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON YOUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMY?" RODRIGUEZ NOTED THAT ECUADOR WAS THE FIRST TO PROTEST THE TRA AND WAS JOINED BY VENEZUELA. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH

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SOME PORTIONS OF THE ACT WERE HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO TRADE

WITH SOME COUNTRIES, IT CONSTITUTED A UNILATERAL BREECH OF THE INTER-AMERICAN AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE AND THE BOGOTA CHARTER OF 1948. HE SAID IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH AN EXAGGERATED ACT COULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED HAD IT BEEN THOROUGHLY THOUGHT THROUGH "IN A COUNTRY WHOSE OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO RESPONSIVE, THOUGHTFUL, AND CALM". BUT, HE WENT ON, "WE UNDERSTAND FROM HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE USG THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL RECTIFY THOSE PORTIONS OF THE TRA WHICH HAVE CAUSED SUCH A SERIOUS IMPACT ON HEMISPHERIC AND WORLD RELATIONS."

3. WE BELIEVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THESE REMARKS SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ALGIERS TWO DAYS AFTER ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS REGISTERED "SURPRISE, SADNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT" WITH THE GOE REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 HOUSTON SPEECH AND ELICITED FROM ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR CARDENAS THE PROMISE THAT "HE WOULD ADVISE THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE CLARIFYING THE EARLIER STATEMENT. THE REMARKS BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ ALSO SQUARE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSECRETARY VALDEZ' COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR, REPORTED QUITO 1556.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE LAW, PRESS CONFERENCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAR 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975QUITO01636  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750081-0038  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 48538, 75 QUITO 1556  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ CREDITS USG WITH TRYING TO OVER- COME DISCRIMINATORY AFFECTS OF TRA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, ETRD, EC, US, VE, (RODRIGUEZ LARA, GUILLERMO A)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006